

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-01 /096 W
-----020443Z 016117 /22

R 020340Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8837

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FOR NAC AGENCIES

MANILA ALSO FOR USADB

BRUSSELS FOR EC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN

REF: A) MANILA 1054 B) MANILA 1164

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES ADB PROPOSAL TO ASSIST RTG ON ROCK SALT-SODA ASH PROJECT, AND RECOMMENDS THAT NAC APPROVE IT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS NAC RESPONSE CITE NEED FOR REVIEW OF RTG MINING LAW BY ADB.

2. EMBOFF ON JAN 25 DISCUSSED PROJECT AND PENDING ADB ACTION

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WITH MR. PISOOT SUDASNA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES, WHO HAS COORDINATING ROLE ON PROJECT WITHIN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. PISOOT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SERIES OF ADB-FINANCED STUDIES WILL BE COMPLETED BY END OF YEAR AND THAT RTG WILL BE IN POSITION TO LAUNCH FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EARLY IN 1978.

3. PISOOT SAID RTG REMAINS WEDDED TO CONCEPT OF ASEAN MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT, BUT CITED MARKED LACK OF INTEREST BY ASEAN MEMBERS TOWARD IDEA OF ACTUALLY PUTTING UP MONEY WHEN RTG TOOK INFORMAL SOUNDINGS ON MATTER SOME WEEKS AGO. HE ADDED THAT IN THE EVENT FUNDING OF PROPOSED SODA-ASH PLANT PROVES TO BE INSUPERABLE OBSTACLE, RTG WOULD STILL WISH TO PROCEED WITH PLAN TO EXPLOIT ROCK SALT DEPOSITS, MAINLY FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN. PISOOT SAID THAT AT INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING JAN 24, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS REP WAS INSTRUCTED TO INITIATE STUDIES ON NEW DEEP WATER PORT (WITH EXPANSION OF SATTAHIP AS ONE POSSIBILITY) AND OF RAILWAY FROM CHACHOENGSAO TO PORT. PISOOT SAID MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS BELIEVE RTG COULD FIND EXPORT MARKETS FOR ONE MILLION TONS OF EACH ROCK SALT AND POTASH ANNUALLY ONCE BULK TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN PLACE.

4. ACCORDING PISOOT, IT NOW APPEARS PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE WILL, IF CONSTRUCTED BE LAID UNDERWATER IN GULF OF SIAM TO POINT NEAR SATTAHIP, AND THENCE OVERLAND TO BANGKOK. PISOOT SAID THAI PLANNERS ENVISION LONG-RANGE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN UTAPAO-SATTAHOP AREA BASED ON EXISTING AIR FIELD FACILITIES PLUS PROJECTED EXPANDED PORT FACILITIES AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS.

5. IN REGARD ROCK SALT-SODA ASH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, PISOOT SAID THAT RTG INTENDS TO DEPEND LARGELY ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WITH ASEAN PARTNERS IF POSSIBLE BUT INDEPENDENTLY IF NEED BE. HE SAID RTG WILL FOLLOW SAME STRATEGY IF AND WHEN DECISION IS MADE TO SEEK TO DEVELOP POTASH DEPOSITS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), ROCK SALT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO02496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770036-0714
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770283/aaaacvby.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f7b6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 1054, 77 MANILA 1164
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3436235
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20040927
Subject: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, TH, ADB, (PISOOT SUDASNA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f7b6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009